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This invention relates to game apparatus and comprises a rubber sheath adapted to be applied to the frame of a lacrosse stick, tennis racket, or the like. In the case of a lacrosse stick, this sheath serves a three fold purpose. It provides a weatherproof covering for the frame so that warping is substantially reduced; it serves as a cushion minimizing danger of serious injury to a player struck by the frame as frequently occurs in actual play; and it also enables the frame to be made lighter than heretofore without loss of strength by providing a lacing strip through which strands of the net may be passed instead of being passed through openings in the frame, as formerly. As applied to tennis rackets, the rubber sheath serves as a weatherproof covering for the frame and has a lacing strip through which the strands of the net-work are passed instead of being passed through openings in the frame itself.

Proceeding now to a more detailed description reference will be had to the accompanying drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a lacrosse stick constructed in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view through one side of the net-work frame, said view being taken substantially along the line 2-2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view through the handle portion of the stick taken substantially along the line 3-3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing a slight modification with respect to the application of the rubber sheath. In this view the net portion of the stick is omitted for the sake of clearness.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a tennis racket having the frame equipped with a rubber sheath in accordance with this invention.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, 5 designates the handle and 6 the frame of a lacrosse stick of a conventional construction. According to this invention the long side member 6a of the frame and the contiguous inner end of the handle 5 are housed in a rubber sheath 7 which may be of any desired thickness. Rubber cushioning strips 8, of suitable thickness, are applied to the sheath 7 along opposite edges of the frame member 6a and are preferably made of a length co-extensive with that of the sheath. The end of the sheath remote from the handle 5 may terminate at the juncture of the side frame member 6a with the end frame member 6b thus leaving the end member and the remaining short side member 6c of the frame uncovered. With this arrangement certain strands of the net 9 and the guard 10 are passed through openings 11 formed in the frame members 6b and 6c, the remaining strands of the net being passed through openings 12 provided in a lacing strip 13 attached to the rubber sheath 7. As shown in Fig. 2, the lacing strip 13 consists of a strip of fabric doubled upon itself to provide flatly engaging plies 13a and 13b in which the openings 12 are formed. A portion 13' of the ply 13a is flatly engaged with the inner side wall of the rubber sheath

7 and adhesively or otherwise united thereto. A similar portion 13¹¹ of the ply 13b is fitted between the lower wall portion of the sheath 7 and the lower cushioning strip 8 and united or consolidated therewith in any suitable manner as, for example, by vulcanizing or gluing.

Since the strands of the net 9 are threaded through openings in the lacing strip 13 instead of through openings in the frame member 6a as formerly, this frame member may be made lighter than has heretofore been the practice and will still have the same strength owing to the absence of weakening openings therein. Said frame member 6a, because of its length, constitutes the most susceptible portion of the frame as regards warping. In the present instance this tendency to warp is substantially avoided by enclosing said frame member in the weatherproof rubber sheath herein described.

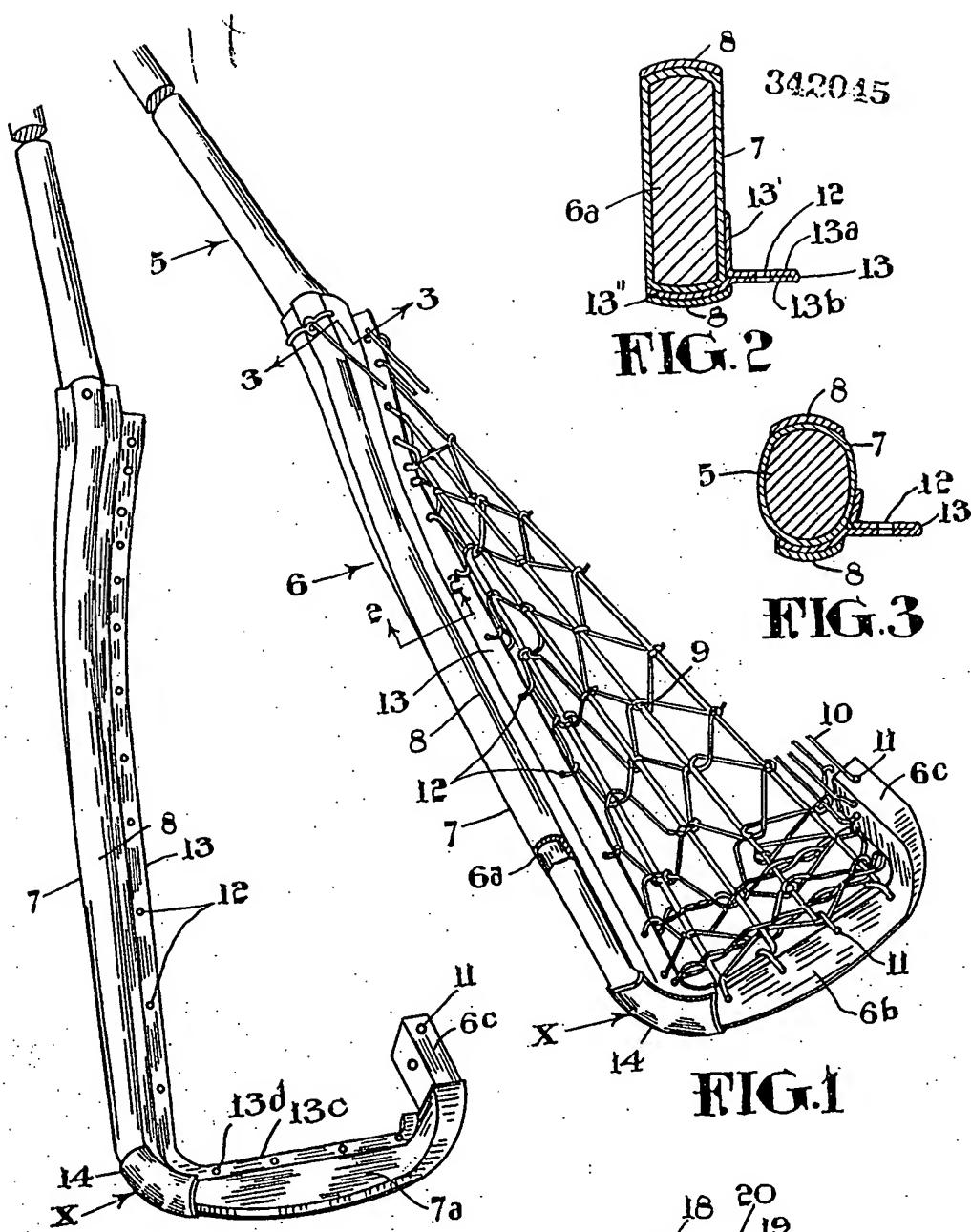
In playing lacrosse serious injuries are most frequently caused by a player being struck by the corner portion X of the frame of a stick held in the hands of another player and it is, therefore, consider it advisable to provide the rubber sheath covering this portion of the frame with an extra rubber pad or cushion indicated at 14.

The construction shown in Fig. 4 is the same as that described in connection with Fig. 1, except that the rubber sheath is extended as at 7a to cover the end member 6b of the frame, said extension 7a being provided with a lacing strip 13c forming a continuation of the lacing strip 13 and provided with openings 13d through which the strands ~~are~~ anchoring the front portion of the net are passed instead of being passed through the frame member 6b, as formerly.

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In Fig. 5 I have shown a tennis racket having its wooden frame 17 encased in a rubber sheath 18 having a lacing strip 19 provided with openings 20 through which the strands 21 of the network are threaded instead of being threaded through openings in the frame itself.



Certified to be the Drawings referred to
in the Specification hereto annexed.

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